



St
Edward's
Passage
1961

242.58

c.44.6 : St Edward's Passage

1900

1902 10 24

The members of the Cambridge Y.M.C.A. celebrated their jubilee with a soiree in their rooms in Alexandra Street. 50 years ago the Church of England Young Men's Society and the Sunday School Teachers' Institute amalgamated, forming the Association. It settled in Rose Crescent. In 1853 it moved to larger premises at 5, Sidney Street, moving to Hobson Place in 1858 and then St Edward's Passage. In 1870 the first stone was laid of their present building; it was completed a year later. To call the soiree a success is scarcely adequate; the visitors never had a dull moment from the time they entered the door until the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

1905 07 18

The landlord of the Central Hotel, Cambridge, told how a man rang the bell in the commercial room and as if he could have a 'number'. This was the customary way in which commercial travellers asked for a room. Later the man said he could not pay his bill. He did not believe he was a commercial traveller and called the police. The man carried a parcel, neatly done up similar to those carried by travellers but when opened it contained two racing calendars, a tin of boot polish and some newspapers. 05 07 18d & e

1906 08 07

Cambridge fire brigade undoubtedly saved a portion of King's Parade, St Edward's Passage and Peas Hill from destruction by fire. There are numerous old houses, warehouses, sheds and outhouses of all descriptions, many constructed chiefly of wood. It broke out at Mons Buol's bakery, 17 Kings Parade; the bakehouse was gutted and hundreds of pounds of chocolate, almonds and sugar damaged. 06 08 07

1908 09 11

A miniature rifle range and air rifle club has been formed in connection with the Church of England Young Men's Society at their large room in St Edward's Passage. The two targets can be placed in

two positions – for shooting standing up or lying down – and two good air rifles have been provided. Englishmen should learn to shoot in order to defend their own hearths and homes and the Corporation should establish a range open almost all hours of the day. CWN 08 09 11 p8

1910

1914 04 17

The unhappy conjunction of the name Sadd and Greef on King's Parade has been a well-worn joke. Now it is about to be broken. Mr Sadd is soon to move to premises in St Edward's Passage while Mr Greef is moving further up the Parade. The Sadds began business last century as dealer in antiques and a hairdresser in one of a row of old-fashioned houses standing in front of King's College. When the cottages were pulled down they moved opposite. His son made a sketch of the old houses 14 04 17g

1920

1923 01 29

The third annual meeting of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes was held in the Cambridge Guildhall. Representatives from 28 out of 29 institutes attended and steady expansion was reported in all branches. The office and shop at 10 St Edward's Passage has been a great factor in this advance. Institute members now have a central meeting place where they can view each other's work and exchange ideas, whilst inhabitants of Cambridge have the opportunity of getting into touch with country women and are glad to profit from the results of the homecrafts practiced by their country sisters

1930

1930 05 28

The bookshops of Cambridge are a special feature of the town; no visitor can possibly miss David's stall on the Market Place where the book-lover may pick up a bargain. He came to Cambridge in 1896 and started his career at this stall; in 1906 he took a shop in St Edward's Passage, which is full of interesting old books and though often locked can be viewed at leisure in the window. In such esteem is he held that a luncheon was held in the Hall of Trinity College and a lithograph cartoon by Mr William Nicholson presented to him. 30 05 28a & b

1936 03 21

Albany coffee shop St Mary's Passage notes; frontage between St Mary's Passage and St Edward's Passage sold - 36 03 21b

1936 11 20

Gustave David, known as 'David' to generations of undergraduates has died hours after returning by the midnight train having attended a London auction. He came to Cambridge forty years ago, opening his now-famous stall on Market Hill. Later he opened a shop in Green Street before moving to St Edward's Passage. He was the first man in Cambridge to sell rare and old books at low prices. So appreciative were Universitymen of his services that in 1925 a number of distinguished members entertained him to lunch at Trinity in recognition of the 'conspicuous services he has rendered the cause of humane letters'. 36 11 20 a & b

1940

1940 02 22

Robert Henshaw, furnishing fabrics, Peas Hill/St Edward's Passage: illustrated advert – 40 02 22a

1950

1958 12 12

King's College announced a new rebuilding scheme in the city centre which will mean the demolition of the Central Hotel and café to provide more accommodation for students and a better headquarters for the Cambridge branch of the Midland Bank. The Bursar said the structure of the existing building is in a very parlous state and they could not for structural safety do less than rebuilding completely the whole interior. However this would only be forcing new wine into an old bottle so they had commissioned the design of a new building by Mr K.W, Capon of Architects' Co. Partnership. 58 12 12c

1959 06 04

St Edward's Passage development – opposition – 59 06 04

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collections has newspaper cuttings from this date

1960

1960 01 07

Central Hotel preservation call – 60 01 07

1960 01 08

King's College has replied to criticism of its plans to demolish the 17th-century Central Hotel on the corner of St Edward's Passage and Peas Hill. Whilst the Midland Bank premises are scheduled as an ancient monument, the St Edward's Passage premises are not. The College has considered eleven schemes for the site, some of which would preserve the façade, but the preservation of the interior was a hopelessly haphazard proposition. Their architect has taken infinite care to ensure the new building preserves the essentially domestic character of St Edward's Passage, says Noel Annan, the Provost.

60 01 08b

1960 03 09

Central hotel sketch 60 03 09

1960 03 09

Central hotel college attitude 60 03 09

1960 03 10

A final decision to demolish the Central Hotel was made by King's College after discussion with the Cambridge Preservation Society. Only five Fellows voted to try to preserve the St Edward's Passage façade while demolishing the rest. Everybody agrees that the interior was in a hopeless state of disrepair. When the college bought the property in 1936 they intended to develop the site. In 1956 they concluded that no part of the hotel could be preserved and commissioned a new building. 60 03 10

1960 03 24

Builders are now shoring up the interior of the Central Hotel in Peas Hill prior to demolition. Yesterday the Central Tea Bar, which occupied the corner of Market Hill and St Edward's Passage, closed and bricks were piled in front of its entrance. The Midland Bank will stay in the building although some changes will have to be made while the first phase is completed. The new building should be ready in about two years 60 03 24a

1960 05 21

In demolishing the old Central Hotel near Cambridge Market Place, the contractors have found it to be in a worse condition than they anticipated, but it has conformed fairly accurately to the surveyor's report prepared by King's College who own the site. The comparatively recent facings of the interior of the building were concealing a rotting structure underneath and the building has to be pulled down with extreme care – almost brick by brick. The hotel is being pulled down in two phases of which the

first has now been completed. The first half of the new building will be erected before the second half is pulled down 60 05 21a

1961 02 11

Central Hotel redevelopment photo – 61 02 11a

1980

1982 06 11

Three Cambridge restaurants have been recommended in a new guide to vegetarian cooking. But Renwick's Restaurant in Magdalene Street closed in March. Hobbs Pavilion comes in for the highest praise for its chilled cucumber soup while Nettles in St Edward's Passage serves a bulgar wheat pie that looks unappetising but tastes remarkable. 82 06 11a

1988 09 05

Nettles, one of Cambridge's most popular snack bars in St Edward's Passage, may close. 88 09 05